

RYAN VICTIM OF A FAMOUS DOUBLE CROSS

Middleweight Champion Was Tricked Into His Waterloo by McCoy.

"ROSEBUD" CAUGHT DIXON UNPREPARED

By THE VETERAN.

The double cross, a form of trickery that has been introduced in nearly all branches of sport, attained its most luxurious growth in the pugilistic profession. It is not cultivated now to any great extent owing to the safeguards thrown about the sport by commission rule and a general tendency to curb the trickery which has so often infested the game. But in the early days of the double cross, the double cross flourished and it was a rare thing for a month to pass without an attempt to execute the maneuver.

A double cross in a boxing match is evidence of duplicity on the part of both principals and usually all the officials. It is a gross form of the desire of one of the contestants to win a battle through the treachery of his opponent, which was followed by a disregard of the promise of a "draw" and the final upset of the boxer was willing to win a bloodless victory.

In many instances the boxer who consented to fight to be knocked out has been lured by a heavy cash forfeit to go through with his part of the programme and in several instances this has been forfeited and the double cross put through successfully.

Beyond doubt the most spectacular double cross in the history of pugilism was that engineered by the astute Kid Ryan at the expense of Tommy Ryan, the middleweight champion.

The motive for the cross was McCoy's hatred of Ryan for the manner in which the champion had treated the latter who was a lowly sparring partner for the title holder. According to the story, Ryan took delight in watching McCoy's training in training quarters, the Kid at that time being practically a novice.

But the humble sparring partner began to improve in boxing and strength, and he began to get from Ryan not only beating but educational value. When McCoy finally felt sufficient confidence in himself to send a modest challenge to the champion, the reply was somewhat scornful and to the effect that a fight with McCoy would not draw flies.

Then McCoy changed his tactics and humbled the champion to give him a bit in order that he might make a little money, which he needed sorely.

"You won't have to train a lick, for I know you can beat me with one hand behind your back. So why not give me a chance to get a little coin when it won't cost you anything at all?"

Fought at Manasseth.

Ryan pondered the matter a while and he gruffly advised McCoy that if he had any promoter friend, he would go to the ring with the Kid.

McCoy hustled around and induced Jim Kennedy, then the manager of the Empire A. C. at Manasseth, to offer a half-rope purse, and the match was set for March 2, 1906.

McCoy had been doing tight work at the Manhattan A. C. on West Forty-fifth street for nearly a month, and as soon as the bout was clinched the Kid settled down to hard work and was soon in the best possible condition.

While he was perfecting his own physical condition, McCoy found time to send a succession of notes to the champion, all in this vein:

"Friend Tommy, please don't show me up too bad. You know, of course, that you can do me, as you used to do. You are the champion, and you can afford to be a little generous to a beginner. I have not been in good health and couldn't train a bit, so if you come into the ring all trained down, I expect they will carry me away in the ambulance."

"Have a little pity, Tommy, on a fellow that is trying hard to make a living."

Ryan Did No Training.

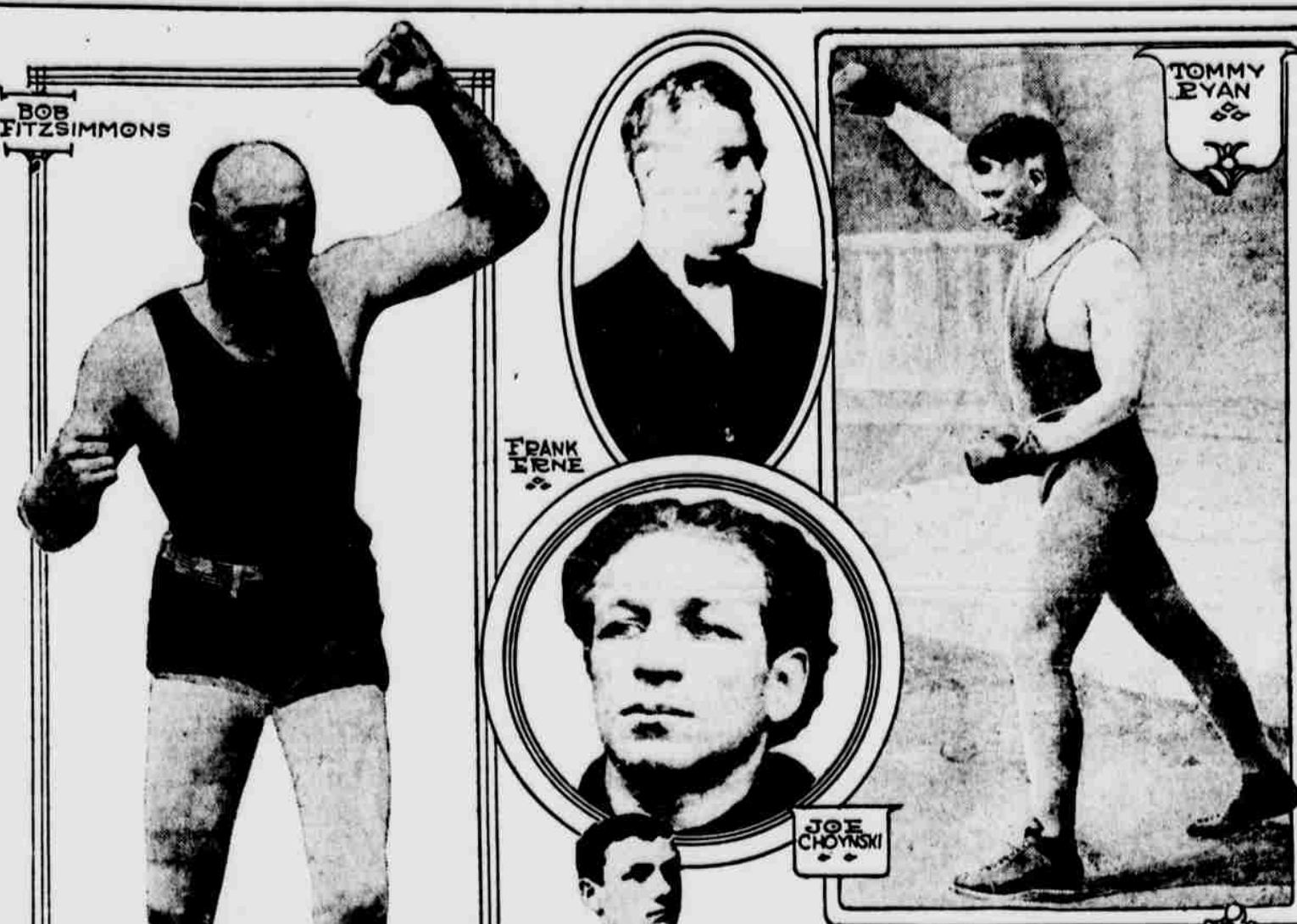
After Ryan had received half a dozen notes of that sort he was convinced that McCoy spoke the truth, and the champion never did any training other than a hair cut and a shave.

A good sized crowd turned out to see the battle, and when Ryan stepped into the ring it was seen that he was fat and relaxed. The champion's eyes bulged when McCoy took off his hat and showed the form of a perfectly trained athlete.

But an astonishment did not end there, for when the underdog came out, he was first round McCoy, with his long left jabbing the rather prominent nose of the champion, and at the same time showed the vicious lunge of Ryan. The champion realized in a few rounds that he had been tricked, but he grimly set his jaws and prepared to fight it out to the end.

Remember how you used to give it to me when I was your sparring partner, Ryan? Well, here's one for you.

BOXERS WHO FIGURED IN BOUTS IN WHICH TRICKERY PLAYED BIG ROLE.



BOB FITZSIMMONS FRANK ERNE JIMMY COLLINS KID MCCOY

point of Old Freddie's jaw and sent him rolling on the stage badly dazed. Fitzsimmons, who had the greatest reputation for power of any boxer in the history of the game, managed to get to his feet and avoid the storm of blows showered on him by the eager Chynowski. Fitz was in bad condition when he finally got to his corner, but in the minute's rest he freshened and was able to keep Chynowski at bay during the fourth.

The Cornishman was himself again when he responded to the bell for the fifth, and there was a dangerous glimmer in his little left eye.

Although the Roosevelt with battered ram-fury and soon had Joseph groggy and on the floor. After three knockdowns his pulse quickened, and although Fitz had his man out when the bluecoats intervened. "Hi, say," said Fitz after the bell sounded, "I don't think the bobbies did interfere when Hi was on the floor."

Dixon was the Victim.

The most uncalculated for double cross, and the least successful, was that in which Walter Edgerton, the Kentucky Roosevelt, sent George Dixon, the featherweight champion, to dreamland in the second round of a bout scheduled for March 22, 1904.

Although the Roosevelt scored a knock-out, yet, owing to the fact that the bout was for the benefit of the Philadelphia bread fund and was billed as an exhibition, Edgerton never received any credit for his performance.

Not only did the management of the bread fund entertainment announce that Edgerton was the victor, but it was generally understood by the principals and their managers that it was to be a sparring contest without any rough work.

With this understanding Dixon made no effort to enter the ring in condition fit for anything but light sparring. In fact the champion was in prime mood, but it was generally understood by the principals and their managers that it was to be a sparring contest without any rough work.

But Edgerton was in comedy mood, and conceiving the idea that he would win the title if he put Dixon to sleep he was inclined to make a comedy bout of it.

The first round went off according to schedule, with both men sparring brilliantly.

Down Went Dixon.

The second round had not gone far when Edgerton, who had been looking for an opening, got it and swung a deadly right on the jaw of Little Chynowski.

Dixon went down like a struck late, and never stirred, the force of the blow and the effect of the champion's social overtures during the day making an overwhelming combination.

Dixon was dragged to his corner and after hard work was revived. It was several minutes before he was able to stand, and then he and Edgerton went at it again and finished the third and last round in a perfunctory manner.

Dixon, as soon as he recovered from the effects of the blow, tried hard to get the Roosevelt into the ring in another bout, but without success.

Dixon passed away some years ago, but Edgerton, 57 years of age, is still in Philadelphia and boxing at intervals.

Edgerton's most humiliating double cross in the history of boxing was that inflicted by Jack Johnson on James Jeffries. The former champion, who had spent in retirement more than five years and who was athletically a wreck, was induced by the clamor of friends to enter the ring and try and take the championship away from the black fellow.

Jeffries was not at all deceived as to the physical limitations, but the scheme was suggested that Johnson might be induced for a consideration to take a crack on the jaw and lose his title. Who conducted the negotiations with the negro is not known, but the big black fell in with the plan and gave his ready consent to all the details. Johnson realized that he could not get a match with Jeffries without a fight, and he was not to be deceived.

In order to make sure that Johnson would carry out this end of the bargain the negro was compelled to put up \$10,000 cash, the hands of a friend, Jeff.

With these details arranged Jeff went at his make believe training and Johnson settled down to hard work.

Twelfth Round for the Flop.

It had been agreed between the negro and Jeff that Johnson would take a poke on the jaw in the twelfth round and flop, and as confident was Jeffries that it would go through that he advised some of his friends to bet that he would win by a knockout in the twelfth round.

For eight rounds before the Reno bout was staged a bet from the clear up hit the Jeffries camp. It was in the form of a message from Johnson that the expected "flop" would not take place and that Jeffries would have to fight on his merits. The effect on the Holler-maker was pitiable. He knew that he had not a living chance against the big black, and Jeff really couldn't be beaten.

Even when he entered the ring he had to keep his feet spread in order to avoid falling.

The twelfth round bout that Jeff put up with his knockout in the fifteenth round was evidence that the former champion never had a look in.

After the bout was ended and Jeff's bruises had healed he got a friend to invent the story of poison in his tea-pot. The only thing that ailed Jeff on that occasion was the deadly germs of a double cross.

Cross That Failed.

A cunningly laid double cross that failed was the one Joe Davis tried to land Frank Erne with. Gans had lost a decision to Erne at the Broadway A. C. in 1900, the Old Master quitting in the twelfth round on the plea that the blood from a cut over his eye blinded him.

The real reason was that the clique behind Gans had their money on Erne to win and Gans was under orders to stop at the first opportunity. The cut over the eye gave Gans the excuse he needed. Thereafter Erne berated Gans, declaring he was a yellow cur and a quitter.

This infuriated the Baltimore oyster shucker, who insisted that his manager get another bout with Erne. The But-

lightweight told Gans to get a reputation.

Finally Erne was approached with a proposition to meet Gans in a six-round exhibition bout in the Penn Art Club, Philadelphia, of which Martin Julian was manager. It was explained to Erne that there would be no rough work and that there would be a good bunch of money.

Erne was suspicious, but finally consented, whereupon Gans settled down and got into superb condition. On the night set for the bout Gans, like a caged tiger, was in the club house, waiting for Erne to appear. Erne arrived in Philadelphia, and was in a hotel in the act of registering his name when a friend whispered in his ear: "The con is out to cross you."

Without finishing his name on the book Erne turned about and returned to the hotel. It was not till May 12, 1902, that Gans got revenge when he put Erne down with his first punch and took the title from him.

Moloney Made an Amateur's Mistake.

Selection of Heavy Hitter as First Pro Opponent, Caused Champion's Downfall.

Johnny Moloney of Boston, who had won the 125 pound amateur championship of the world, and who was rated as one of the cleverest boxers in the game, amateur or professional, jumped to the conclusion that it was time for him to enter the professional ranks and weed out a few dozen aspiring thumpers.

He selected as his initial victim a heavy puncher named K. A. Joe O'Donnell of Gloucester, N. J., and the combat was staged at the Olympia in Philadelphia. For two rounds Moloney boxed with brilliant skill, and it looked as though he would win by a knockout.

However, O'Donnell, who had been watching for a chance to land on the body, got his opening near the close of the third and sent his man to canvas with a few seconds before the bell. This punch settled the amateur and his seconds were compelled to toss the sponge in the fourth.

All of which would seem to indicate that amateur champions should exercise judgment in the selection of professional opponents, especially if they desire to make a good showing. Most of the professionals are decidedly rough.

Robertson Released.

Pitcher Bill Robertson, who has been on and off with Memphis all season, has finally found a release. At the same time another pitcher appears in the Southern League. Atlanta taking on Frank Robertson, a pitcher who was released to a club in the Georgia-Alabama League earlier in the season.

Questions and Answers

By TOM MAC NULTY

Dear Tom—A bet that in some forms of poker four of a kind is better than a straight flush. Is this correct? SLIVERS.

In stud poker and in its parent game, straight poker, the straight flush has no value. In draw and whiskey poker it beats four of a kind.

Dear Tom—(1) How old is Jake Daubert and how long has he been playing for Brooklyn? (2) Is Tom Thorpe still playing baseball? Where? H. M. F.

(1) Daubert was born on May 11, 1885, and started with Brooklyn in 1910. (2) Thorpe is with Milwaukee in American Association.

Dear Tom—Where can I locate Hank Crowley, the big catcher from St. Ann's Prep? If he is playing with an amateur team? B. O'BRIEN.

(1) Any of the St. Ann's Prep boys should be able to tell you where he now is located. (2) He is not in the big leagues.

Dear Tom—On Saturday, June 24, 1916, the Yankees played at Boston. "Paul" Foul grounds two games. Will you kindly inform me as to who won these games, how many runs, hits and errors were made by each team, and the respective pitchers? JAMES J. HUSSELL.

Yankees won both games. Cleveland started against Boston, the score of which was 2 to 1. New York made seven hits, as against four for the Senators. Yankees won second by a 4 to 3 count. Ayres pitched full game for Washington, while Murrice, Keating and Shawkey twirled for the Yankees in order named. Second contest each team made seven hits.

Dear Tom—What is the average time of a race horse for 2 1/2 miles? Is it the same for all? First heat, 2:05, second heat, 2:04, third heat, 2:07 1/2. D. & L.

Walden, N. Y. 2:05 7-12.

Dear Tom—What teams has Koutch played for in the National League? St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Boston.

Dear Tom—The following bet is to be decided on the rules of pinocle as they existed in 1915. The bet is to be changed since. A bet that if the king of spades is turned up first in a pinocle game it cannot be used in the marriage, and therefore the king of spades only 20. B. beta B. 2:05. Who won?

J. G. BROOKLYN.

There has been no change in the laws of pinocle since the game was invented, so it does not matter whether July, 1776, or July, 1916, is referred to. Neither party wins the bet because both are wrong. The royal marriage can be used as part of the sequence for the simple reason that without the marriage there would be no sequence. It can also be scored for as if the model is made first. A tie therefore wrong about the 200 and B is wrong about the 300.

Dear Tom—In the last Boston-Chicago American series Boston won two games in one day, the second game was protested on the grounds that the Chicago pitcher, who was named, was not in the game. Has any decision been given as yet? JIM AND EDIE.

Protest was not sustained. Game stands.

Dear Tom—(1) Kindly let me know the reason why Joe Judge, the New York boy, was not playing first base regularly for Washington since he was traded to the real name? MIKE H.

(1) Judge, now back in the game, only recently recovered from an attack of hernia. (2) Joe Williams.

Dear Tom—Four hard action pinocle, Jack was scored by player put on base first, reaching 200. A was the best trick, and the king of spades was turned up. I. H. HADIN.

It does not matter what has made or when a win a trick, the hand must be played out to see if the bidder cannot only can win but win the game. If he can, he wins, as the bidder always has the first count.

Dear Tom—Who gets the higher salary, Walter Johnson or Grant Alexander? Walter Johnson, who is paid \$100,000 a year, and Grant Alexander, who is paid \$75,000 a year.

They never told me. And I never asked them. Do you mind informing the public what salary you receive?

Dear Tom—Would like to know if Willie Jones is a Jew? GEORGE KENNEKE.

Am not certain. I haven't Willie's complete record.

Dear Tom—Man at bat makes a two base hit and is credited with making a base hit. Is he credited with making a base hit? No.

Dear Tom—(1) How do you pronounce Mr. R. K. Rogers name? (2) I mean the girl who was married to the manager of the New York Yankees. Is it right or wrong? INTERESTED.

(1) "Coach." (2) Don't know.

Dear Tom—What is the nationality of Wampanoag, Turner and Speaker of Cleveland and what is the name of the Cleveland pitcher who was named? J. RYAN.

All Americans.

Dear Tom—Did Mike Gibbons ever fight Bob Meach? If so, what was the result? No.

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